

CIA, Army paid Noriega \$300,000

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MIAMI (AP) — The CIA and U.S. Army paid Manuel Noriega more than \$300,000 in payments and gifts over 31 years, according to papers filed by the U.S. government Friday in the deposed Panamanian leader's drug case.

The government said they'd released the information to counter statements by Gen. Noriega's attorneys that the Central Intelligence Agency paid him "millions of dollars" during its relationship with the defendant. The government has been very secretive about any financial arrangements it had with Gen. Noriega.

The documents, signed by lead prosecutor Michael P. Sullivan, said the CIA paid Gen. Noriega \$160,058, including \$1,948 for gifts to him and his family. The CIA funds were in the form of monthly payments and stretched from 1971 to 1986.

The government did not say why the money was paid to Gen. Noriega, who has been described in the past as a CIA informant who would tip the U.S. government on a wide range of Central American security and law enforcement matters.

In addition, the U.S. Army paid Gen. Noriega \$162,108, including a \$50,000 sound projection system. The

Army began by paying Gen. Noriega \$10.70 in 1955 and continued the payments through 1986 when it gave him \$3,500.

The years in which the CIA paid the most money were 1979 when he received \$24,200 and 1985 when he was paid \$25,000. The most profitable year with the Army was 1972 when he was paid \$9,964.

The papers were made public just prior to a Friday hearing on a dismissal motion by Gen. Noriega's defense team.

The defense lawyers have asked that the case against their client be thrown out, based on what they call

"outrageous misconduct" by the government in taping his prison telephone calls to his attorney's office.

One tape of the calls was leaked and later telecast by Cable News Network, touching off a constitutional showdown pitting the right of media against the right to a fair trial. CNN still faces criminal contempt charges for the telecast.

U.S. District Judge William Hoeweler was not expected to rule on the defense's dismissal motion immediately.